



ELECTRONIC JOURNAL: USEFUL AND EFFECTIVE FOR USER AND DIGITAL LIBRARY

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ABSTRACT

Electronic journal which are an important resource in a digital library are being widely used by the people now days. This paper deals with different aspects of electronic journals and their impact on users, authors, indexing services, scholarly communication, accessibility and libraries. Electronic serials may be defined very broadly as any journal, magazine, webzine, newsletter or type of electronic serial publication which is available on the Internet. Uses of electronic journals are increasing day by day. The changes are taking place in infrastructure of libraries due to the electronic journals. There is variation in the use of electronic journals from discipline to discipline. The electronic journal publishing is growing. Researchers have positive attitude towards electronic journals. Budget allocation for journals has been shifting from print to electronic form, which has necessitated for change in collection development policies of libraries. This article describes the evolution of e-journals, their advantages and disadvantages for contemporary libraries. Developments in information technology have brought e-journals as basic information sources to research community and these are emerging as major sources of scholarly communication.

Introduction

Electronic resource was introduced by William Dijkhuis in 1977. The very first e-publication came in 1980 in the form of plain text emails. They were sent to the subscriber via a mailing list. 1985-1995 referred to as a period of digital revolution. 1985 CD Rom CD-PD Journals first journal electronic letters Online by IEE 1994-95 Distributed via OCLC. Refer to the current offerings of online and web based publishers. An electronic resource is defined as a resource which requires computer access or any electronic product that delivers a collection of data, be it text referring to full text bases, electronic journals, image collections, other multimedia products and numerical graphical or time based as a Commercially available title that has been published with an aim to being marketed. These may be delivered on CD ROM on tape via internet and so on. The e-resources for on magnetic and optical media have a vast impact on the collections of university libraries. These are more useful due to inherent capabilities for manipulation and searching providing cheaper information access for acquiring in information resources.

Gail Macmillan defines E-journals as "any serials produced, published and distributed nationally and internationally via electronic networks such as Binet and Internet".

According to Jones (W) "E-journals are available electronically via a computer or a computer network, that they may or may not be published in some other physical medium, but that are not CD-ROM's". By the above definitions we can say that e-journals are periodicals that are made available as individual titles via electronic medium, typically the World Wide Web (www).

Types of e-journals:

1. Classic electronic journals: Some of the electronic journals are available through internet applications, which are also called classic e-journals. Originally they were distributed via email but now are available on the web and only alerts of new issues are distributed by email.

Access to this category of e-journals is free of cost.

2. Database model and software model: Another type of e-journal is called database model and software model. Under the database model articles reside in a centralized database maintained by the publisher and subscribers are given permission to access the database to locate and download articles. The software would have an expiration date that corresponds with the length of the subscription.

3. Full text: These are e-journals where complete articles are available rather than just summaries or abstracts. Usually the whole of the journals is available online.

4. Electronic only journals: These are journals that are only available electronically, no counterpart like print or CD-ROM is available of these types of journals.

Advantages of e-journals:

1. Customization: Only the articles of interest are, "delivered" and the user has some control over the appearance of the article both printed and on the screen.

2. Full text searching or navigation: Navigation and search are two of the most attractive features that an online journal can offer. The retrieval capabilities of

journals in electronic form are far better than those in paper. Every word in the article is potential retrieval point so that even a caption of figure can be used find a half remembered article.

3. Speed of access: It takes some minutes or even seconds rather than hours or days to access. Much less time is required to browse through electronic journals than print journals.

4. Speed and cost of publication: Avoiding the printing and mailing process can easily drop 2 or 3 weeks off the current publication cycle. Machine readable text from author is gradually lowering cost and reducing time as authoring and publishing system become better integrated and as electronic transmission is used more in the review process. Hence, additional time will be saved.

Disadvantages of e-journals:

1. Difficulty in reading computer screens: The main disadvantage of electronic journals is the limitations of the computer monitor. This leads to problem with reading, particularly over four or five screen. Long reading from screen can cause eyestrain.

2. Reliance on equipments: Unlike print journals, an electronic journal needs the availability of electricity, telephone system, computers, internet, appropriate softwares and hardware etc. though this is not the matter in the developed countries, access to these can be a problem for developing countries.

3. Less permanent: Electronic version of online journal is easy to lose and their reliance on software and hardware makes them impermanent. This is a problem both for Institutions such as libraries that might want to preserve them and for individual as well who wish to maintain their own collection.

4. Higher cost: The system needed to display and network needed to retrieve electronic articles are added cost to the end user. Access to electronic article is easier to monitor than to paper collections. Hence, there is more possibility of publishers for collecting free for use.

5. Complexities for acquisition: Acquiring electronic journals is in some way entirely difficult that acquiring print journals. There are license agreements to negotiate and librarians end up dealing with vendors whose subscription rates and cost models aren't always crystal clear.

Maintenance: E-journals provide many facilities but it takes more and expertise staff to maintain e-journal finders, records in OPAC etc. Our higher education system is passing through lot of problems due to economic recession and cost-recovery concepts. University libraries in India are faced with the challenges to meet the users' requirements due to various reasons such as exponential growth of knowledge, price escalation and budget restrictions. Now in the present age, when the volume of electronic literature or journals is increasing immensely every day, prices of the journals are spiralling higher and especially with the emergence of multidisciplinary and inter disciplinary subjects, a librarian faces acute difficulties in formation the subscription list of periodicals, which ultimately serve the researchers.

On the basis of above, access modes have emerged for e-journals:-

A. Remote Access: In this type of model vendor/publisher host their journals at their website.

When some institute or library subscribes to the e-journals through that particular publisher, it is provided right of access. Depending on how this right is defined, the patrons of the library can have access from set of IP addresses or through library's LAN or even both. Publishers grant the right to subscribing library/institution through one of the following methods like:-

- (i) User-ID and password:
- (ii) IP enabled (Intranet)

B. On Site Access: In this model, the library can host the e-journals within its campus. Publishers deliver the e-journals to subscriber through CD-ROM or through their website or by FTP option. This is more suitable than above options because it is more secure to maintain the journal at its end as it has paid for the journal (the library) and is used to the ownership concept. As library can host the journal within its campus through LAN it offers wider and better band width for access than access through internet.

E-journals: a consortia approach: "Shared subscription" or "consortia-based subscription" to electronic resources through consortium of libraries is now considered to be a feasible strategy to increase the access to e-journals across the higher education institutions at highly discounted rates of subscription. The consortia-based subscriptions can be successfully deployed to meet the pressures such as minimized budget, increased user demands and rising costs of journals. The libraries all over the world are forming consortia at all levels with an objective to take advantage of global network to promote better, faster and most cost-effective ways of providing electronic information resources to the information seekers. Consortia provide union strength to negotiate with electronic publishers for the best possible price and rights. The collective strength of consortia members facilitates the libraries to get the benefit of wider access to electronic resources at affordable cost and at the best terms and conditions.

The significance of paper is to study the impact of electronic journals on:

- (i) Attitude of users towards use of electronic journals
- (ii) Simple search
- (iii) Advanced search
- (iv) Attitude of authors at the time of contribution to electronic journals
- (v) Quality of information
- (vi) Indexing services
- (x) Scholarly communication

E- Journal of Library and Information science:

The following journals represent a small sample of the Libraries' holdings. Here is a more complete list of Lib & I Sc e-Journals. To find a journal in print or microfilm, please search the OPAC. If you need a journal article or a book we don't own, you may request it through Interlibrary Loan (ILL).

- (1) American Archivist
- (2) American Libraries
- (3) Annual Review of Information Science and Technology
- (4) Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science and Technology
- (5) Cataloguing & Classification Quarterly

Conclusion:

The electronic journals as means of scholarly communication have come to age. The recent developments in the Information, Communication and Technology have changed the format of scholarly communication from print to electronic media. Open accesses as a variant of electronic journals have become popular with the users. There has been significant change in the acceptance of electronic journals in recent times. E-journals have revolution the information seeking activity of researchers. Information is no longer confined within the four walls of a physical building called library but is virtually omnipresent in the form of e-journals. Subscription of e-journals and their effective management generates satisfaction among user community. More and more libraries are redirecting their funds to provide services of e-journals to their users. Also the support provided by consortia subscription adds to sheer strength of the library by providing e-journals at a highly discounted rates thus enabling library to meet with the increasing pressures of diminishing budgets, increased users expectations and rising cost of journals. Electronic journals have made easy access to published work. Libraries need to reorient themselves with new infrastructure, staffing pattern and services, for providing access to electronic journals.

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